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HUXHAM

OBSERVATIONS ON ANTIMONY

1756

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Medical and Chemical

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BY

DOCTOR HUXHAM.

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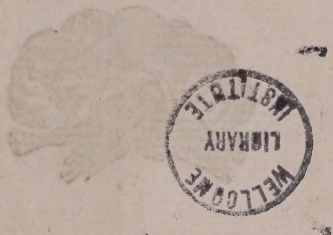
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To the Right Honourable

G E O R G E

Earl of *Macclesfield*,

PRESIDENT,

And the COUNCIL,

OF THE

ROYAL SOCIETY,

Theſe Medical and Chemical

Obſervations upon ANTIMONY

Are Humbly Dedicated,

By their very highly obliged,

And moſt obedient,

Humble Servant,

The Author.

ADVERTISEMENT.

AS I originally designed the following Dissertation on Antimony for the Use of young Practitioners in Physic, I have given Leave to my Bookseller to publish it in a separate Pamphlet, notwithstanding the *Royal Society* did it the Honour of inserting it in the Second Part of the 48th Volume of the *Philosophical Transactions*.—In that however a particular Description of the Method of preparing the Essentia, or Vinum Antimonii (I so strongly recommend and so frequently use) is not given, and therefore I shall here set it down; especially as many Enquiries have been made after the Manner I commonly order of doing it; which is indeed very easy, and thus:

Let one Ounce of well prepared Glass of Antimony, powdered, be infused, cold, in 24 Ounces of sound *Madeira* Wine for 10 or 12 Days, shaking it sometimes.—Let it settle for a Day or two, then decant the Wine, and filtre it through whitish-brown Paper, and keep it in a Glass-bottle well stopped.—Thus made it will keep good for several Years.—I prefer the *Madeira*, as it keeps better than most other Wines: A generous old *Spanish* White-Wine will do very well. The Stomachic Aromatic, I formerly directed to be infused with the Stibium, may be omitted, as of no great Importance.

The Antimonial Glaſs ſhould not be powdered and rubbed much in a Braſs or Bell-metal Mortar, leſt the Particles of the Copper ſhould be rubbed off with it, which will alſo diſſolve in the Wine.—This indeed ought to be a general Caution in powdering any hard mineral Subſtances either for Medicine, or an Aſſay.

This Antimonial Wine may be given out of Whey, Tea, Wine, Beer, Cyder, in a Word, out of any aqueous or vinous Liquor from 30, or 40, to 60, or 80 Drops to Adults, as an Alterative, Attenuant and Diaphoretic; not but that the firſt Doſes commonly cauſe a ſlight Nauſea, or Sickiſhneſs at Stomach, and ſometimes even a ſmall Degree of Puking with a Stool, or two.—But, after uſing it 2 or 3 Days, the Stomach is ſcarce at all affected by it.—It is needleſs to mention that much larger Doſes will purge and vomit briſkly, but I muſt ſay with as much Safety as moſt other Emetics, and draſtic Cathartics.

But it would be tedious and uſeleſs to give more particular Directions here, ſince I have not only done it in the following Papers, but alſo in my 1ſt Volume, *De Aere & Morbis epidemicis*, and in my *Eſſay on Fevers*. — Beſides, this, and every other Medicine, ſhould be peculiarly adapted to the immediate Exigence and Caſe of the Patient.

Medical

Medical and Chemical

OBSERVATIONS

UPON

ANTIMONY.

NOT above two Centuries ago, a Phyſician, who preſcribed Antimonials, was expelled the Faculty; nay, at *Rome*, any one, who uſed Pulvis Cornachini, incurred the Penalty of being ſent to the Gallies, on Account of the Antimonium Diaphoreticum, that was in it. Now, on the contrary, Antimony, in ſome Form or other, is the grand Catholicon, and

uſed by Dabblers, as well as Doctors, in Phyſic. It is without all Doubt a moſt excellent Mineral, when duly prepared, and judiciouſly adminiſtered.

But whoever would give Antimonial Medicines with Safety and Succeſs, ſhould be well acquainted with the Analyſis of that Mineral, and its component Principles; ſhould know what different Combinations, Preparations, and Doſes of them, will effect; otherwiſe it may prove a Poiſon, inſtead of a Remedy. For who would imagine, without ſufficient Experience, that ſix or eight Grains of the Liver or Regulus of Antimony, and even a much leſs Quantity of its Glaſs, will cauſe the moſt violent Vomitings; whereas a Drachm or more of the crude, or common depurated Antimony of the Shops, may be taken with Eaſe and Safety? But further, if equal Quantities of Antimony and Salt-

petre are deflagrated and melted together, a very ſtrongly emetic Liver of Antimony is produced; and yet, if three Parts of that Salt, and one of Antimony, are detonated and calcined in a proper Fire, a mere inert Calx, or Antimonium Diaphoreticum, as it is called, comes out, not in the leaſt emetic or cathartic. On the other Hand, if only one Eighth of Nitre had been fuſed with the Antimony, a very mild Kind of Regulus Medicinalis had been the Conſequence. So likewiſe, if one Part of Salt of Tartar is fluxed with five Parts of crude Antimony, a very gentle medicinal Antimony, or, as more commonly called, Regulus Medicinalis, is prepared; and yet if two or three Parts of fixed Alcali Salt, and one of the ſame Mineral, are melted together, a very draſtic Kind of Hepar Antimonii, and commonly a ſmall Quantity of Regulus, enſue. Nay, Antimony well roaſted, calcined, and

then fluxed into a Glaſs, without the Addition of any other Body, becomes the moſt virulent Emetic in Nature: But if this very Glaſs is only calcined again by the concentrated Rays of the Sun, through a large Burning-glaſs, it is turned forthwith into an inactive Calx, or a Sort of Antimonium Diaphoreticum. The ſame is effected by burning the Vitrum Antimonii with about an equal Quantity of Nitre.

Theſe are Facts, which nothing but repeated Experience could inform us of; and yet, however ſtrange they may appear, perhaps, when we come more nearly to examine the Matter, we may pretty clearly diſcover the Reaſon of them.

The Caſe ſeems to be thus: Clean, crude Antimony conſiſts of much Sulphur, and a conſiderably greater Quantity of reguline metallic Parts. The Sulphur, or at leaſt what may be called the external Sulphur, is little

or

or nothing different from common Sulphur, as *Helmont* surmised, and *Boerhaave*, *Hoffman*, and *Geoffroy*, have evidently proved; and I think every one now allows it, however virulent the arsenical Sulphur of Antimony, as they called it, was deemed by the antient Chemists. And this Sulphur, like the common Sulphur, is compounded of a vitriolic Acid, and a bituminous or inflammable Substance: And whatever *Basil*, *Valentine*, *Charras*, and others, talked of the Vinegar of Antimony, there is no other Acid in it than what I have mentioned; nor is there any Kind of Salt in Antimony but the vitriolic Acid, notwithstanding the Conceit of *Maets*, *Duncan Bornett*, &c.

But however abundant the sulphureous Principle is in Antimony, the reguline greatly exceeds it, and in Truth constitutes the very Body or Essence of Antimony, and in which alone resides its draftic Power, and emetic

emetic Quality, as is ſufficiently ſhewn by Monſieur *Geoffroy*, and of which, at preſent, I believe few Chemiſts doubt; for there is no one Preparation of Antimony emetic, in which the reguline Principle doth not greatly abound: Therefore no Tincture of Antimony, made with rectified Spirit of Wine, is in the leaſt Degree emetic.

This reguline Subſtance, or Antimony properly ſo called, is a metallic Subſtance, *ſui generis*, almoſt totally volatile when urged by a very ſtrong Fire, and can by no Means, hitherto known, be brought to a malleable State. One will have it of a mercurial, another of an arſenical Nature; but it ſeems in ſeveral Reſpects to differ from either. No pure running Mercury can by any known Method be drawn from Regulus of Antimony, or its Flowers, with Sal Ammoniac, whatever may have been boaſted by the alchymiſtical Viſionaries.

ries. The exceeding ſmall Quantity, that Monſieur *Geoffroy* fancied he extracted from it, could never be done again by the very ſame Proceſs, Materials, and the utmoſt Care. Beſides, if the reguline Part of Antimony was really mercurial, how comes the Mercury not to fly off intirely in a ſtrong Calcination, eſpecially in ſuch an intenſe Heat as that of the Burning-glaſs? And if it doth ſo, as ſome have aſſerted, how comes the remaining Calx, after ſuffering ſuch a violent Action of the Fire, to be ſo readily reduced to its priſtine reguline metallic State, merely by the Addition of any common Phlogiſton, as Sulphur, Charcoal-duſt, animal Fat, or the like? But indeed Mercury in no Form will ſtand ſuch an intenſe Heat, but is ſoon totally evaporated; and ſo would the Regulus, if mercurial; the Calx of which however, after having ſtood this fiery Trial, is, as I ſaid, eaſily revived into a proper

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Regulus. Pure Antimony differs from Arſenic in not having the leaſt Garlick-ſmell, peculiar to Arſenic when burnt. Nor is the antimonial Regulus at all ſoluble in Water, as Arſenic, nor in Oil of Tartar *per deliquium*, in which however white Arſenic almoſt intirely diſſolves. Moreover the conſtituent Particles of Arſenic and Antimony are of quite different Figures; the former reſembling two quadrilateral Pyramids, join'd Baſe to Baſe; the latter like Needles, as it were, and this particularly in the minuteſt Diviſions of Antimony by Solution, Sublimation, &c. as is remarkably ſeen in the Flowers of Antimony *per ſe*, and in the Solution of its Regulus in Wine, when viewed by a Microſcope on a Slip of Glaſs, or the like: Nay, when Stibium is revived from the Glaſs, or Calx Antimonii, it reſumes the ſpiculine or needle-like Appearance; and when Mercurius Vitæ is fluxed

with-

without any Addition, it becomes a ſpiculine Regulus, or a mere Maſs of ſuch Aculei, or Needles.

Indeed it ſeems to be from this ſpiculine or needle-like Form (which is conſtantly retained by the minuteſt Particles of the reguline Subſtance), that Antimonial Preparations have their emetic Quality. Thus ſaline Bodies ſtimulate by their Points, or Edges; Sublimate corroſive by its Salts actuated by the Weight of the cohering Mercury; Arſenic by its rigid, ſharp-pointed, heavy Particles. For when theſe reguline Spicula are ſheathed up in a large Quantity of Sulphur, as in the crude Antimony, they exert no ſuch Power; and if Regulus of Antimony is melted up with pretty much Sulphur, it becomes quite as inert as the crude Mineral. So Regulus, or Glaſs of Antimony, melted with Wax, is rendered exceedingly much milder than before. Nay, even the virulent Quality

lity of the ſtrongeſt white Arſenic may be ſurprizingly taken off, by intimately uniting it with common Sulphur by Fuſion.

It ſhould ſeem then, that this ſulphureous Covering blunts or ſheaths up the Points of theſe acrid Bodies, and takes off the Irritation, which they would otherwiſe cauſe on the nervous Coats of the Stomach and Guts. This is plainly ſeen in the Glaſs of Antimony with melted Wax; which, though in itſelf the moſt violent of all Emetics, thus becomes infinitely more gentle, and may be given to Adults from four, ſix, or eight Grains, to ſixteen, with Safety, and great Advantage in ſome Caſes; whereas two or three Grains of the powdered Glaſs will excite moſt dreadful Vomitings. But let me add, by the Way, that if the Vitrum Ceratum Antimonii, after it hath been long made, is afreſh rubbed to a fine Powder, it proves much more draſtic,

the

the Wax being rubbed off from it, and leaving its Points more naked: So that even this ſeems to prove what I juſt now hinted. *Hartman*'s Chyliſta, or the old Preparation of Glaſs of Antimony with Gum-maſtic, diſſolved in Spirit of Wine, and then evaporating the Spirit, ſeems to be on the ſame Foundation, but, I ſhould imagine, nothing near ſo ſafe: However, I never tried it, nor that other Preparation of the Vitrum Antimonii, by the repeated Deflagration of Spirit of Wine on it, which, *Geoffroy* ſays, may be given ſafely to ten or even twenty Grains; the oleoſe Part of the Spirit of Wine inveloping or blunting the ſtibiate Spicula, and reducing the Glaſs in ſome Meaſure back again to its original antimonial State. It is certain the ſaline-mercurial Preparations are rendered much milder by burning Spirit of Wine upon them repeatedly.

The leſs therefore of the external

Sul-

Sulphur adheres to the reguline Part of Antimony, the more vehement is its Operation, and *vice verſa*. Thus in preparing the common Liver of Antimony, the Nitre deflagrates with, and carries off, a great Part of the Sulphur, whence the antimonial Hepar becomes very ſtrongly emetic (I do not conſider at preſent what the Alkalization of the Nitre in the Proceſs doth further). And it is much the ſame in making the common Regulus; and, when Filings of Steel are uſed in preparing the martial Regulus, it is, that the Iron may abſorb the antimonial Sulphur. So likewiſe, in calcining Antimony for the Glaſs, the Sulphur is firſt driven off by roaſting, and then more perfectly by melting the Reſiduum in a ſtrong Fire into a Glaſs, whence it acquires a moſt violently emetic Power, which notwithſtanding is ſoon totally deſtroyed by re-melting it with much common Sulphur.

But

But although this groſs external Sulphur is not at all neceſſary to the Conſtitution of the reguline, metallic Part, an internal or metallic Sulphur appears abſolutely requiſite to the Exiſtence of the Regulus, as Regulus; for when Antimony is quite deprived of all its Sulphur, by what is called the humid or dry Calcination, it ceaſes to be Metallic or Antimony. Thus Antimony expoſed to the ſtrong concentrated Rays of the Sun, becomes an abſolute inert Calx, or Caput Mortuum, and can never be reduced to its original Nature and Form, but by the Addition of ſome ſulphureous Body. The ſame happens, when large Quantities of Nitre are deflagrated with Antimony, till the Sulphur is all burnt off, as in the common Antimonium Diaphoreticum. It is thus alſo in the humid Calcination, when ſtrong Spirit of Vitriol is poured on the reguline Maſs, which it tears abroad, and

lets looſe the Phlogiſton; for this Calx likewiſe is not reducible to Regulus but by ſome ſulphureous Pabulum, in cloſe Contact and Fuſion with it. The ſtrong ſulphureous Smell of the Oil of Vitriol, when forced off by Diſtillation, or the like, diſcovers the Phlogiſton, and whence it came. Moreover this Calx is intirely white, and will not in the leaſt deflagrate with Salt-petre; an Argument of the Abſence of any ſulphureous Matter. This Calx however is ſoon alſo turned into a Regulus by the Addition of a proper Sulphur, and then deflagrates with Nitre as uſual.

It appears then, that ſome internal metallizing Sulphur (perhaps however little or nothing different from the common external Sulphur) is abſolutely neceſſary to combine the metallic Earth together, and even to give it the reguline Conſiſtence and Form, without which it lies an inactive incoherent Heap, utterly devoid

void of any Antimonial Virtue. Thus the Duſt, or Minera, or Aſhes of Iron, are harmleſs, and may be ſwallowed ſafely; but if formed into Knives, or Needles, the Caſe is infinitely altered. We not only ſee the Neceſſity of this internal ſulphureous Principle in the Compoſition of Antimony, but alſo in that of the more perfect Metals, which, when calcined by the Burning-glaſs (or otherwiſe) are not reducible into their proper metallic malleable State, but by the Addition of ſome Kind of Sulphur, as a Bond of Union between the disjoined Particles of the reſpective metallic Earths. But it is pretty remarkable, that let the Sulphur be animal, vegetable, or mineral, Fat, Coal-aſh, or Brimſtone, it equally effects the Coalition of the reſpective Earths, and the Regeneration of each of the different Metals; ſo that it ſeems to be Sulphur, as Sulphur, that is only wanted in the Recompoſition. In like Man-

ner as in Vegetables, the conglutinating Oil is neceſſary to the Coheſion of the Stamina, which being burnt off, they become a mere Duſt. It ſeems alſo to argue, that the Difference of Metals lies in their different ſpecific metallic Earths, as I may ſo call them, and not in the different Proportion, Combination, and Purity of the ſulphureous and mercurial Principles, as Monſieur *Homberg*, and others, have imagined. Elſe I know not how the Sulphur, of the very ſame Charcoal, equally ſerves to re-vivify the Aſhes not only of Iron, Copper, or Tin, into their reſpective metallic Forms and Conſiſtence, but likewiſe even the Calx of Silver or Gold. But further, if theſe metallic Earths were indeed originally of a mercurial Nature, and remain ſo after Calcination, how comes their Mercury to ſtand ſuch an immenſe Heat as that of the Burning-glaſs? Whereas no known Preparation of

Mer-

Mercury, much less Mercury itself, will stand a third Part of the Heat without being totally dissipated, and for this Reason Mercurials, as Mercurials, never can be vitrified: But these Earths, or Ashes of Metals, do stand this exceeding Degree of Heat, and are vitrifiable, and therefore not mercurial; and their Calx may be reduced to Metal again, by the Addition of some Sulphur: But I believe no one will say the Charcoal, in the Reduction, refunds the mercurial Principle to them.

Possibly it may here be asked me, what Indication there is of any remaining Sulphur in well purified Regulus of Antimony, or its Glass? I answer, no one can doubt of its being in the Regulus, who knows, that the best Antimonial Regulus will deflagrate with Nitre, in a red-hot Crucible, and give off more or less of sulphureous Scoriæ; that fluxed with a fixed Alkali-salt, it will form a

Kind of Hepar Antimonii; and that Sulphur may be eaſily ſeparated from it, when diſſolved in Aqua Regia. But this is obvious; the Sulphur indeed is not ſo readily diſcovered in Glaſs of Antimony, but it is evidently there; for when that Glaſs is finely powdered, levigated, and digeſted with very ſtrong diſtilled Vinegar, it tinges it very highly, and imparts to it an emetic Quality: And this Tincture, evaporated to an Extract, gives off the ſulphureous Tincture to rectified Spirit of Wine: But, if this ſame Glaſs is thus ſeveral Times treated with freſh diſtilled Vinegar, or its concentrated Spirit, at length it neither gives it any Tincture, or emetic Power, but remains a dead, dark-coloured, inert Maſs, all the Sulphur being extracted, and the Glaſs reduced to a mere Calx. Beſides, even Glaſs of Antimony will in ſome Meaſure deflagrate with Nitre; which ſhews, that it ſtill retains

ſome

ſome of the ſulphureous Principle; and, in Order to render it mild and innoxious, it is neceſſary to correct it by burning off the Sulphur of the Glaſs with Nitre, or by the Burning-Glaſs: Which is in Truth the Deſtruction of the metallic Conſiſtence in the Glaſs.

But it is a much more difficult Thing to prove the Exiſtence of the reguline Spicula in the Glaſs of Antimony, in the very Form of which I ſeem, in a great Meaſure, to have placed its emetic Quality; and yet Glaſs of Antimony is the moſt violent of all its Preparations. I confeſs, the Spicula, or Needles, by no Means appear in the Glaſs; but they really do ſo, when the Glaſs is digeſted, and diſſolved in Wine, by laying a Drop of the Liquor on a Plate of Glaſs, and then viewing it through a Microſcope. And further, Vitrum Antimonii, reduced to a Regulus with a little common Sulphur, ap-

pears of a needle-like ſtriated Form. And incinerated Antimony, when melted with too ſlack a Fire, often appears a Maſs of half-ſtriated Regulus, and half Glaſs, ſo little is the Difference. The Salts in common Glaſs do not appear, though they are unqueſtionably there, and ſometimes ſo looſely combined with the vitreſcible Earth, that Wine, kept in Glaſs-bottles, made of ſuch ill-prepared vitreous Matter, diſſolves ſome of the Salts, and thence the Wine becomes ill-taſted and unwholeſome. Moreover, the Preparation of the Vitrum Ceratum Antimonii ſeems not a little to confirm the Reality of what I have hinted at; for the Wax perhaps doth nothing but ſheath up the pointed reguline Particles, when melted with them: And this appears the more probable, as a large Quantity of Brimſtone, melted with white Arſenic, ſheaths up the arſenical Spicula, and renders them incomparably leſs noxious

noxious than before: So, with a due Quantity of Sulphur, Glaſs of Antimony itſelf is rendered a very mild Kind of Regulus.

It is exceeding difficult to explain the Modus Operandi of many Medicines. Who can ſay, how a Grain or two of crude Opium cauſes a profound Sleep? Or why a very ſmall Doſe of Cantharides ſo particularly and ſtrongly affects the urinary Paſſages? Why two or three Grains of Elaterium operate with more Violence than fifty or ſixty of Jalap? Or why ſuch a very ſmall Quantity of Glaſs of Antimony excites ſuch dreadful Vomitings?

But whether the emetic Quality of Antimony depends on the ſpiculine Form, or not, it certainly lies only in the reguline Subſtance; for not one of the Preparations of that Mineral is emetic, but when conſiderably impregnated with reguline Particles; which, when not inveloped with

with too much Sulphur, always exert a vomiting Faculty; and this, whether given in Subſtance, or diſſolved in a proper Menſtruum, as Wine, Cyder, Vinegar, or the like. Water, as Water, draws nothing from an Antimonial Regulus, as neither touching the ſulphureous or metallic Part. Spirit of Wine hath no Manner of Effect on the Reguline; but a vegetable ſaponaceous Acid acts on both, and draws out the real Subſtance of the Regulus, making as it were a very attenuated liquid Tartar Emetic, or Antimonial Solution. And thus indeed the vegetable Acids act on Iron or Copper; which neither pure Water, nor pure Spirit, will affect, but are moſt readily diſſolved by Wine, Cyder, Juice of Lemons, or the like.

This leads me, however, to make the following Obſervations: That though ſimple Water is ineffectual in drawing off any Thing emetic from

pure

pure Regulus of Antimony, yet certainly Rain, or River Water, in ſome Meaſure, acts on the Body of crude Antimony, and extracts from it a milky Hue, and a ſulphureous Antimonial Smell and Taſte, by being digeſted with it in a very gentle Heat of the Sun, or Fire. And this Water, by the Way, ſo impregnated, hath been very often found of great Service in cutaneous and other Diſorders, when drunk freely. Now, as the watery Menſtruum doth unqueſtionably take up ſome of the Antimonial Sulphur, it may receive therewith likewiſe ſome of the very fine reguline Parts attached to the Sulphur; juſt as almoſt all the natural ſulphureous Waters hold alſo ſomething, more or leſs, of ſome other mineral Principle, as particularly moſt of them ſomething ferrugineous. And further, whatever may be thought of giving crude Antimony in Subſtance, *Kunkel*, *Hoffman*, *Geoffroy*,

froy, and many others, aſſert its great Utility in ſeveral Diſorders; and, I think, I have ſufficient Reaſon to be of their Opinion. It is ſcarce to be doubted, but that it is of very great Service in ſeveral of the Diſeaſes of Horſes, Cattle, *&c.* and therefore we may very well ſuppoſe, that ſome of the reguline Parts paſs with the ſulphureous into the Maſs of their Blood; and, by Parity of Reaſon, Antimony may as well find its Way through the *Vaſa Lactea*, *&c.* of human Bodies, and produce very ſalutary Effects. I have, for a great many Years, given Antimony and Quickſilver, rubbed into what I call an Antimoniated Æthiops, with great Advantage, in ſeveral Caſes, particularly in cutaneous Diſorders, obſtructed ſcrophulous Glands, Rheumatiſms, *&c.* when the common Æthiops had been found much leſs effectual. This I have long ordered to be kept here as an officinal Medicine,

and

and to be prepared of crude Antimony, exceedingly fine powdered, p. iii; of pure Quickſilver, p. iv; of Flowers of Sulphur, p. ii. Theſe are to be rubbed into an impalpable black Powder: Doſe from ℈ ſs. to ℈ ii.

It lies in my Way here, alſo to mention, that though Cinnabar of Antimony, ſublimed in the uſual Way after the Butter of Antimony, may be very little different in Virtue, or Compoſition, from the common factitious Cinnabar; yet Cinnabar of Antimony, as now generally made, with Æthiops Mineral and crude Antimony raiſed together, hath undoubtedly ſome of the reguline Parts, as well as the ſulphureous, of Antimony, which carry them up; for it is well known to Chemiſts, how eaſily the Flowers of Antimony riſe in the common Roaſting, where the Fire is much leſs than for ſubliming the Cinnabar. Now, every one knows, that theſe Flowers are of

a reguline Nature, are ſtrongly emetic, and may be eaſily reduced to an actual Regulus. The abundant Sulphur indeed wraps them well up in the cinnabarine Preparation: However, I have often obſerved large Doſes of Cinnabar of Antimony create a Nauſea and Puking, eſpecially on tender Stomachs. But then, for this very Reaſon, this Cinnabar of Antimony may be, in many Caſes, much more effectual than the common factitious, or even than the native Cinnabar.

But I come now particularly to make a few Obſervations on ſome of the common Antimonial Preparations.

The common Stibium, or crude Antimony of the Shops, hath been melted from its groſs Ore, into a Sort of conical Moulds, or Veſſels, like our Melting-pots; whence the molten Maſs, when taken out cold, ſomewhat reſembles a Sugar-loaf. Now,

as

as in this Melting, the more ponderous or metallic Part subsides to the Bottom, or narrow Part of the Pot, the lighter, or more sulphureous, remains above; it is a Matter of some Importance in making the Regulus Antimonii, &c. from what Part of the Cone, or Loaf, the Antimony is taken; for the nearer the Point of the Cone the more reguline; and the Yield, from a given Quantity, thus taken, will be, *Cæteris paribus*, much more considerable, than if taken near the Base. This Thing should be likewise attended to, when Antimony is given in Substance, or boiled, or infused in Diet-drinks, in which it is far from being a useless Ingredient.

I have before taken Notice, that when the reguline Part of Antimony is involved in a great Quantity of Sulphur, as in crude Antimony, that Mineral exerts no emetic or drastic Power: But when the Antimony, by long Roasting, or Calcination, is deprived of great Part of this external Sul-

Sulphur, it acquires more and more of a vomiting Quality, as the Sulphur is more and more conſumed. And when this incinerated Antimony, as it is called, undergoes a further Degree of Fire, and is fluxed into a Regulus, and even yet farther into a Kind of Glaſs, it is ſo far ſtripped of its ſulphureous Covering, that the reguline Spicula lie as it were naked, and exert the utmoſt Violence on the Stomach, *&c.* And even before it is turned into a proper Regulus, or Glaſs, it acquires, after a long and proper Roaſting, no ſmall Degree of an emetic Power, as any one will find, who gives it in Subſtance, or properly digeſted in Wine, or Cyder. And though I cannot ſay with *Boerhaave*, that it is violently emetic, yet I know *Hoffman* is miſtaken, when he pronounces is quite inactive. This incinerated Antimony then, being thus far deprived of its external Sulphur by Calcination, is farther di-

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veſted of it by being kept fuſed a conſiderable Time in a very ſtrong Fire, and converted into Glaſs; which almoſt intirely conſiſts of reguline Parts, as is manifeſt from its being of a much greater ſpecific Gravity than crude Antimony, or even than its Hepar; and though the Regulus lies concealed under a glaſſy Form, yet it is ſtill very eaſily reduced into a proper Regulus, and therefore, as ſuch, communicates a moſt ſtrongly emetic Quality to any Menſtruum, which the Regulus itſelf would impart it to, as well as being in Subſtance moſt violently vomitive. Nay, in running calcined Antimony into Glaſs, if the Fire is not briſk, and well managed, Part of the very ſame molten Maſs runs into Regulus, and Part into Glaſs, ſo little is the Difference between them.

Indeed Regulus of Antimony itſelf cannot be prepared but by deſtroying the external Sulphur: For

Inſtance, eight Parts of crude Antimony, ſix Parts of crude Tartar, and three Parts of pure Nitre, made into a dry fine Powder, muſt be thrown, by ſmall Spoonfuls at a Time, into a red-hot Crucible, whence a very great Deflagration immediately ſucceeds each Projection. At the Bottom of the Maſs, firſt duly melted by a quick ſtrong Fire, the Regulus is found ſometimes more, ſometimes leſs, as the Fire, *&c.* are managed. It is a neceſſary Caution to force down the Cruſts, that are apt to form, at the Beginning of the Fuſion, with an Iron Rod, or the like. Here a great Part of the external Antimonial Sulphur is conſumed by the Deflagration, and the Tartar and Nitre being alſo forthwith alcalized by the Fire, unite with the remaining Sulphur, and ſo form a Kind of Hepar Sulphuris, which diſſolves, and takes up likewiſe, much of the reguline Subſtance; (for Liver of Sulphur, melted

melted with any Kind of Metal, diſſolves it, and even makes a Maſs, ſoluble in Water); ſo that by this Proceſs much the greater Part of the Antimony and Salts is turned into a Scoria, or a Kind of Crocus Antimonii, on the Top of the Regulus; and this eſpecially if the Fuſion is long continued. The Regulus, thus detached in a great Meaſure from the ſulphureous Part, becomes very ſtrongly emetic, for the Reaſon above aſſigned. Though this is a common Method of making Regulus of Antimony, at leaſt in ſmall Quantities; yet it is far from giving ſo large a Portion of Regulus, as may be had by ſeveral other Proceſſes; for it conſumes not only much of the ſulphureous, but alſo of the reguline Part, by the violent and repeated Deflagrations, which riſe in the Form of Flame, Fume, and Flowers, if catched in proper Veſſels; and theſe laſt may be eaſily reduced to Regulus again.

Beſides, the Proportion of the Salts is too great, for, being alcalized, and uniting with the Sulphur, they take up too much of the reguline Part, ſo as to leave very little at Bottom, if a ſtrong Fire is long continued. Much more Regulus, in Proportion, would have been yielded, if the Tartar and Nitre had been previouſly fired, and turned into what is called the black Flux. But, even in this Caſe, the melted Maſs ſhould be poured off, or taken from the Fire, as ſoon almoſt as it flows very thin; elſe no ſmall Part will evaporate by the Strength and Duration of the Fire, which alſo increaſe the Proportion of the Scoria. But a much greater Quantity of Regulus is produced by melting two Parts of clean Antimony with one Part of Iron-filings, or Bits of Nails, to which alſo one Part almoſt of pure dry Saltpetre ſhould be projected. This Proceſs gives almoſt half Regulus. Here

the Nitre in Part likewiſe burns off the Sulphur, but it is the Iron, that chiefly takes up the Sulphur, and unites with it into Scoria; which, by-the-bye, finely powdered, and duly waſhed, may be uſed with as good or a better Effect, than the Antimonium Martiale Cachecticum of *Ludovicus*. I have repeatedly known it very ſerviceable in a Leucophlegmatia, and an obſtinate Fluor Albus.

If crude Antimony is firſt calcined by Fire, as for making the Glaſs, or boiled repeatedly in freſh ſtrong Lime-water, much of the Sulphur is carried off, and the Stibium, thus managed, yields much more Regulus in Proportion than if crude Antimony had been fluxed; but the Salts, uſed in ſuch Caſe, ſhould be very conſiderably leſs in Quantity than in the common Method, and alſo previouſly reduced to the black Flux. Monſieur *Geoffroy* ſays, the incinerated Antimony, melted with

about an equal Quantity of black Soap, gives down much more Regulus than is to be had by the Methods of *Kunkel*, *Stahl*, or any other, even nine or ten Ounces out of a Pound: But I really never tried this Method, not having at Hand any true black Soap: Perhaps ſome other ſalino-ſulphureous Medium would do as well.

Upon the Whole, however, this general Obſervation may be made, that where only ſmall Quantities of Ingredients in this, or any other Aſſay, are fluxed at a Time, there will be always leſs Regulus in Proportion, than if the Proceſs had been made with much larger Quantities. Beſides, in Truth, there is a great Deal of Difference in Antimony itſelf, ſome abounding with reguline Parts much more than others: Nay, Antimony, from the very ſame Loaf, differs in this conſiderably, according as

as it is taken from the Basis or Apex of the Cone.

The Effects of Salts on Antimony will more fully appear, if we attend to the Operation of Nitre in Preparing the common Liver of Antimony; *viz.* if equal Parts of Antimony and Nitre, finely powdered, and intimately mixed, are deflagrated, and melted in a Crucible, or Iron Mortar, the Product is a Liver of Antimony, which should be separated from the Scoria. In this Process the Sulphur is first of all partly burnt off in the Conflagration: And, 2dly, the Remainder is eagerly imbibed by the Nitre, now alcalized by the intense Heat, which, by this Means, also dissolves, and intimately combines with, the reguline Part, just as common Hepar Sulphuris dissolves and takes up all Kinds of Metals. That this chiefly depends on the Alcalization of the Nitre, and its consequent Union with the Antimonial Sulphur,

and thus forming a diſſolving Liver of Sulphur, that combines with the metallic Part of the Antimony, is evident; for three Parts of Salt of Tartar, or Pot-aſh, fluxed with two Parts of Antimony, produce exactly the ſame Effect, that is a Liver of Antimony, without the leaſt Admixture or Help of any Nitre. And it is from the intimate Union of ſo large a Portion of this Hepar Sulphuris with the metallic Part, that little or no Regulus is depoſited, but only an uniform half-vitrified Subſtance at the Bottom: Nay, if it be not ſufficiently fluxed, it gives off no Scoria. However, if the Pot-aſh and Antimony are quickly melted with a very briſk ſtrong Fire, a Bit of Regulus, ſometimes more, ſometimes leſs, is found at the Bottom. But if a much leſs Quantity of the alcalious Salt is uſed, much leſs of the Antimonial Sulphur is taken up, and it ſo forms what is called by *Margraaf*, *Hoffman*, and

and others, Regulus Medicinalis, that exerts but little emetic Power, there being Sulphur enough left to invelope the reguline Spicula. But when a much larger Quantity of fixed Alcali Salts (as about two Parts to one of Antimony) is blended with it by Fuſion, ſo much of the Sulphur is taken up by the Salt, that little is left to ſheath the reguline Parts ſufficiently to prevent their exerting a very draſtic Power. The Liver of Antimony, made in the uſual Way, with equal Quantities of Nitre, loſes almoſt twice as much in the Operation, by the Deflagration, as that with the fixed Alcali; but the latter is not ſo glaſſy, and much more apt to relent by the Moiſture of the Air. The Crocus, however, from either, if perfectly edulcorated, is nearly of the ſame Strength. That indeed, prepared with half the Quantity of Nitre, is conſiderably weaker, as much leſs of the inveloping Sulphur

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is conſumed, eſpecially where a ſtrong Fire is not uſed, and the Matter is taken off before the Scoria have well Time to ſeparate. Even the Scoria of the common Regulus of Antimony are of the very ſame Nature, and a Kind of an Hepar Antimonii, which by a proper Flux may be eaſily reduced in Part to a Regulus: So that whether alcalized Salt-petre, Pot-aſh, or Salt of Tartar, are melted with this ſulphureous Mineral, a Liver of Antimony is produced, from which, duly waſhed, a Crocus Metallorum, or, more properly, Antimonii. And as theſe hepatic Maſſes are ſoluble in boiling Water, the Solutions let fall an Antimonial Sulphur, eſpecially when precipitated with a vegetable or mineral Acid: But this Sulphur is always more or leſs impregnated with reguline Particles, particularly that of the firſt Precipitation, whence it is always conſiderably emetic. Nay, it is certain

tain the reguline and ſulphureous Parts of Antimony may be ſo incorporated with fixed Alcali Salts, that the Whole, almoſt, of any Quantity of Antimony, melted with about an equal Part of Salt of Tartar, or Potaſhes, may be thus turned into a Kind of Sulphur Auratum, as it is called; which is itſelf, in Truth, no other than a very ſulphureous Crocus Antimonii. The Coheſion however of the Salt, Sulphur, and Regulus, in this hepatic Concrete, is eaſily diſſolved by pouring an Acid to its Solution in Water, which ſtrongly attracting the alcaline Salt, the ſulphureous and reguline Parts ſoon fall to the Bottom. Nor are theſe latter very firmly united, as the alcalious Salt did, during the Flux, in ſome Meaſure detach the Antimonial Sulphur from the reguline Parts. It is evident the Coheſion is but looſe; otherwiſe ſo great a Proportion of Sulphur, as is found in the Sulphur Auratum, would,

would, if very intimately combined with the reguline Parts, have ſo ſheathed up theſe Spicula, as to render them incapable of impreſſing any great Irritation on the Coats of the Stomach, *&c.* as is ſeen in crude Antimony, and its Regeneration from Sulphur and Regulus. Beſides, tho' the firſt Precipitation of the Sulphur Auratum is greatly impregnated with reguline Parts, yet the ſecond or third Precipitation holds exceedingly few, and is almoſt intirely ſulphureous, and ſcarce at all emetic. If you would have this milder, or more light Sulphur, you ſhould not pour on too much of the precipitating Acid at firſt; or rather ſuffer the Antimonial Lixivium or Solution to ſtand, for ſome Days, expoſed in a cold open Air; for thus the impure reguline Sulphur will fall of itſelf; after which you may inſtill the Acid as uſual; and, if you do thus, by gentle Degrees, in ſmall Quantities,

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after the ſecond or third Precipitation, the Sulphur will fall almoſt pure; which ſhews, that the Sulphur in the hepatic Solution is not very cloſely united with the Regulus. By the Way, however, as the Antimonial Lixivium, from the Hepar, is ſo fully fraught with reguline Particles, and theſe ſo much unſheathed, it is conſtantly more or leſs emetic, notwithſtanding what Monſieur *Lemery* aſſerts to the Contrary. But that is not the only exceptionable Thing in that Gentleman's elaborate Treatiſe on Antimony.

As the Sulphur Auratum is now very frequently uſed in Medicine, more Exactneſs ſeems required in its Preparation than is commonly practiſed: For certainly the firſt Precipitation differs not a little from the ſubſequent, as being of a darker Colour, and greater ſpecific Gravity, and of courſe more reguline. It is alſo of ſome Conſequence how long the

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ſtibiate Lixivium ſtands before the Acid is poured on; for by Time it will of itſelf drop much of the ſulphureo-reguline Subſtance; eſpecially if it is kept in an Atmoſphere much impregnated with the Fumes of Vinegar, Sulphur, or the like; and, in ſuch Caſe, the ſucceeding Precipitate, with an Acid, will be much milder, as being leſs metallic, but more ſulphureous. The Quantity and Quality of the precipitating Acid are alſo of Conſequence. Vinegar may rather augment the emetic Power; and Spirit of Salt, or Vitriol, may make a Precipitate not altogether ſo proper to mix with Calomel, as in Dr. *Plummer*'s alterative Pill, *&c.* Great Care ſhould be taken therefore in the Ablution of the Sulphur Auratum; for the acid Salts are not ſo eaſily waſhed off as ſome would imagine, and it cannot be doubted but that ſome of them fall with the Precipitate. Who would think

think such a Quantity of Salts lay hid in the Calx of Silver, precipitated out of a Solution of it in Aqua Fortis, by Sea-salt, which, though perfectly washed, and altogether insipid (as is the Luna Cornea, into which it readily melts) yet two Parts of this, intimately mixed with one Part of Regulus of Antimony, and distilled, give a most caustic Kind of Butter of Antimony. But however light and pure the Antimonial Sulphur may be desired, if it doth not in some Degree participate of the Regulus, it can have no more Effect than common Sulphur.

The Kermes Mineral, once altogether as much celebrated (and with as good Reason) as any Antimonial Nostrum now-a-days, is also a Kind of Liver of Antimony, and of the same Nature with Sulphur Auratum, though the Process in Preparation seems very different. It is made by boiling crude Antimony, powdered,

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in a ſtrong Lixivium of fixed or alcalized Nitre (Salt of Tartar or Potaſh will do full as well.) Here the alcalious Salts fix on the Sulphur, and unite with it; whence a liquid Kind of Hepar Sulphuris, which diſſolves, or perhaps more properly takes up, and incorporates with, many of the reguline Parts: And thus in Reality it becomes a mild Sort of Crocus Antimonii, as is evident from its having ſome emetic Power, and yielding a Regulus by a proper Flux.

There is another Way of making a Sort of Kermes Mineral, or Sulphur Auratum, ſeldom or ever practiſed, though I think really the beſt; and that is, by boiling crude Antimony, finely powdered, in a very ſtrong Lime-water, for about an Hour, and then precipitating the ſtrained Decoction with a Solution of crude Tartar, or its Cryſtals, in boiling Water. This Decoction of crude

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Antimony is as limpid as Fountain-water, but gathers, by Standing, a thin Film, moſt beautifully variegated with all the Colours of the Rainbow. However, this perfectly limpid Liquor, on the Affuſion of a vegetable or mineral Acid, immediately becomes turbid, and of a deep ſaffron Colour, and a great Deal of an orange-coloured Antimonial Sulphur precipitates, juſt as in the common Way of precipitating the Decoction of the Scoria of the Regulus, or Hepar Antimonii. Though this Sulphur Auratum, as well as the other, like the alchemiſtical Gold, ſo much talked of, and expected, by the Adepts, is much greater in Proſpect than Reality; for when duly waſhed, ſeparated, and dried, it ſcarce amounts to the fortieth Part of what it ſeemed to be at the Time of Precipitation. I take this Sulphur to be rather milder, and more fixed, than that from the Scoria: However, here

alſo is an Abundance of reguline Parts, as is evident from the orange Colour, and the emetic Quality, which this alſo poſſeſſes. This Decoction may as well be precipitated with Juice of Lemons or *Seville* Oranges (which give the brighteſt-coloured Precipitate); or by a Solution of Sal Ammoniac, or freſh Urine: Even common Saliva will do it; for, on taking a Spoonful of this perfectly limpid Decoction into my Mouth, it in an Inſtant turned intenſely yellow: So that not only vegetable and mineral Acids will precipitate this Antimonial Decoction, but likewiſe neutral Salts.

This Decoction of Antimony in Lime-water ſerves alſo to a further End; for the Mineral, thus boiled, may be in a great Meaſure deprived of its ſuperficial Sulphur, eſpecially if boiled a ſecond or third Time in freſh ſtrong Lime-water. And then the Powder, well waſhed and

dried, is as fit for making Regulus, or Glass of Antimony, as when the Stibium is roasted and calcined in the common Way. And perhaps Antimony, thus prepared, may be more effectual in many Cases, than the Crude, when given internally: It often pukes, and purges gently, if given to ten or fifteen Grains, especially on the first Use of it.

It appears then, from what hath been said above, that Sulphur Auratum, Kermes Mineral, *Russel*'s Powder, or *Wilson*'s Panacea of Antimony without Fire, are all of the same Nature, though indeed somewhat different in their Strength, and pretty uncertain in their Operation; and therefore require a careful Hand to prepare, and a good Head to administer them with Advantage. For the reguline Principle will be much more predominant in the Scoriæ of the very same Kind of Regulus of Antimony, if it is kept for a long Time

in a briſk Fire, than it would be, if for a much ſhorter Time; not to mention what I have ſaid before, as to the Manner of precipitating, *&c.* the Sulphur Auratum. And Kermes Mineral differs not a little, as prepared with a ſtronger or weaker Lixivium, as more or leſs carefully waſhed and edulcorated, and as Spirit of Wine is, or is not, at laſt deflagrated with it. Whoever would give them, ſhould begin with ſmall Doſes, as a Grain or two; but, as he finds they agree, may gradually increaſe to eight or ten, eſpecially if they are intimately incorporated with any reſinous Extract, natural Balſam, or the like. But the Doſes ſhould by no Means too quickly ſucceed one the other; for ſolid Antimonials may lie a conſiderable Time in the Body without any ſenſible Effect, and yet, at length, operate all on a Sudden, with exceeding great Violence; particularly when Wine, Cyder, or any vegetable

getable Acid, are ſwallowed upon them.

Though common Salt, fluxed with Antimony, ſeems to do little more than promote its Fuſion, and therefore is commonly added, in ſmall Quantities, in preparing Liver of Antimony, and Regulus Medicinalis, yet its highly concentrated Acid hath a very peculiar Effect on the reguline Subſtance, rendering it not only much more volatile, but likewiſe exceſſively cauſtic, as is ſeen in common Butter or Oil of Antimony; for, in this Preparation, the ſublimate Corroſive contributes nothing but its moſt highly dephlegmated and moſt penetrating acid Salt, which the Regulus more ſtrongly attracts than the Mercury; and theſe, uniting, form a moſt corroſive Liquid, which comes over by Diſtillation; from which is precipitated, by the Affuſion of common Water, what is very improperly called Mercurius Vitæ, as it hath no-

thing of Mercury in it but the Name, and is, in Truth, when duly edulcorated with boiling Water, a mere Regulus Antimonii, as plainly appears when it is melted. Though there are ſeveral other Ways (and theſe too leſs dangerous) of making Butter of Antimony; yet this Proceſs with ſublimate Corroſive ſhews the Regulus naked as it were, when precipitated, and the Antimonial Sulphur left behind with the Mercury, which are eaſily ſublimed into Cinnabar: So that this alſo confirms the above Doctrine; for with well purified Regulus Antimonii and ſublimate Corroſive no Cinnabar can be prepared; there being no more Sulphur in the Regulus than is barely neceſſary to preſerve the metallic Form and Conſtitution.

I have but ſeldom uſed Mercurius Vitæ in my Practice, and that many Years ago in ſome maniacal Caſes: It always proved a very churliſh Medicine,

dicine, and I soon grew weary of it. If any one is inclined to try any Thing of this Kind, I would recommend a Preparation of the celebrated Dr. *Stahl*; *viz.* pour by little at a Time, and slow Degrees, near treble the Quantity of good Alcohol Vini on rectified Butter of Antimony, as a considerable Heat at first arises on the Mixture, it immediately grows milky, and a very white gelatinous Kind of Mass soon precipitates. This digested for a Day or two, in a very gentle Heat, then sufficiently edulcorated with boiling Water, dried and deflagrated with Spirit of Wine, gives a Powder much softer in Operation than the common Mercurius Vitæ, though still emetic, and, as the Professor says, greatly sudorific and anodyne. The Dose three or four Grains. I find it sweats very largely, especially when it operates little by Vomit or Stool, as indeed most of the drastic Antimonials

will do. *Maets* recommends another Preparation of Mercurius Vitæ, under the Title of Purgans ex Antimonio ſecuriſſimum; which is made by melting one Part of mercurius Vitæ with two Parts of Nitre, and then well grinding this Maſs with an equal Quantity of common Salt. This done, let the Salt be well waſhed off, and the Maſs well edulcorated. This indeed I find ſo ſecure a Medicine, that it differs very little in Virtue from common Bezoar Mineral: The Reaſon will eaſily appear to any one, who conſiders the following Obſervations:

Antimonium Diaphoreticum, and Ceruſs of Antimony, are little more than the dead Aſhes of that Mineral, deprived of its internal or metallizing Sulphur by repeated Deflagrations with Salt-petre; ſo that I think little can be expected from them in a medicinal Way, both the one and the other being an inactive Calx, in which

which the reguline Form and Contexture are quite deſtroyed; inſomuch that Aqua Regia, which acts ſo readily on crude Antimony, or its Regulus, will not touch thoſe, much leſs diſſolve them: An Argument, that the metallic Nature of the Antimony is greatly deſtroyed in theſe Preparations. And though they are both reducible, by a proper Flux, to Regulus again, yet never without the Addition of ſome Phlogiſton, or ſulphureous Subſtance. And thus indeed may any Calx of Antimony, prepared in the humid or dry Way, be converted into Regulus by Fluxing in cloſe Veſſels with ſome inflammable Ingredient: Which ſhews, that both the Form and Virtue of the Regulus depend, in a great Meaſure, on the ſulphureous Principle, as well as the metallic Earth. I know not whether it may be here worth noting by the Way, that Antimonial Calx, reduced with mineral Sulphur,

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takes a ſtriated Form; but with an animal or vegetable Phlogiſton the laminated Appearance of common Regulus of Antimony. Is this from the vitriolic Acid only? Mercurius Vitæ, fluxed *per ſe*, hath alſo this aculeated or needle-like Appearance: Whence?

This likewiſe is really the Caſe in the moſt perfect metallic Bodies, which loſe their Metalleity, as *Becher* calls it, as Malleability, and other metallic Properties, by an intire Deſtruction of their internal metallic or combining Sulphur, as is ſeen when Metals are calcined by the Burning-glaſs, or an intenſe culinary Fire. This internal Sulphur is probably what *Albertus Magnus* means by the Humidum unctuoſum ſubtile, which, he ſays, is the prima Materia Metallorum, and is intirely analogous to the combining Sulphur, or Oil of Vegetables, which binds the very Particles of the Stamina and orga-

organiſed Parts together, and which, when totally burnt off, leaves the Whole in Aſhes. But here, by the Way, it ſeems evident, that the ſulphureous Pabulum, ſo neceſſary to the Reduction of an Antimonial Calx, is very different from the very Subſtance of Light, or Fire: For though a vaſt Deal of the actual Light, or Fire, adheres to the Calx, as is manifeſt from the great Augmentation of Weight in calcining Regulus of Antimony by the Sun-beams, or a culinary Fire, yet it by no Means contributes to its metallic State; on the Contrary it quite deſtroys it; and the Sun-beams, or Particles of Fire, do not combine, but ſcatter, the reguline or metallic Parts, by deſtroying the Bond of Union, the internal Sulphur. In like Manner Oil of Vitriol, or Spirit of Nitre, two concentrated and exceedingly fiery Acids, tear abroad Regulus of Antimony, and reduce it to a Calx, by letting looſe

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the Phlogiſton, or ſulphureous Principle, whence the metallic Subſtance is quite decompoſed. And that this is the Caſe, ſeems evident from the very ſtrong ſulphureous Smell, that ariſes, when theſe Acids are poured on Antimony. Indeed Oil of Vitriol takes up the inflammable Part of Antimony, and unites with it into an actual mineral Sulphur. It ſeems then, that theſe fiery Acids act on Antimony very nearly in the ſame Manner as the Sun-beams, or actual Fire; and this is one Argument, amongſt many others, of the very great Affinity between Light and Acids; which Sir *Iſaac Newton* long ago hinted.

That the Deſtruction of the internal Sulphur of the reguline Subſtance, in theſe Calcinations, is the Deſtruction of the reguline Form, and of courſe of the emetic Power of the Antimony, appears in Part from what I have ſaid above, and will be more

more manifeſt by attending to the following Experiments. If merely equal Quantities of Antimony and Nitre are deflagrated, and melted together, only ſo much of the external inveloping Sulphur is conſumed, as to leave the reguline Spicula naked, and capable of very ſtrongly irritating the Coats of the Stomach, *&c.* But if three Parts of Nitre are taken to one of Antimony, by the repeated ſtrong Deflagration, not only the external but the internal Sulphur alſo is totally diſſipated, and the Maſs reduced to an inert Calx. Thus likewiſe Iron, Tin, and Copper, with a double or treble Quantity of Nitre, are reduced to Aſhes, and demetallized. A little more than two Parts of pure Nitre to one of Regulus Antimonii reduces it to an innoxious Calx, as there is much leſs Sulphur to be burnt off in the Regulus than in the crude Antimony: And about an equal Quantity of Salt-petre quite de-

deſtroys the Virulence of Glaſs of Antimony, as in it there remained only juſt Sulphur enough to preſerve the reguline Nature. So five Parts of Nitre to two of Mercurius Vitæ convert it into an inactive Subſtance, or Kind of Bezoar Mineral. But of this enough — What Nitre doth by Deflagration, the Burning-glaſs doth by the intenſe Force of the concentrated Sun-beams; by which Antimony, its Regulus, and Glaſs, are turned to a mere Calx, the Whole of the Sulphur being quite burnt up. Nay, when any of theſe are a long Time expoſed to the Action even of a common ſtrong Fire, they are reduced to mere Aſhes, which can neither be run into Regulus or Glaſs again, but by the Help of ſome Phlogiſton, as animal, vegetable, or mineral Sulphur. And the ſame is neceſſary to the Reduction of the Calx of Iron, Tin, Copper, *&c.* That there remains no Sulphur in any

any Antimonial Calx, ſo prepared, is manifeſt, in that no one of them will deflagrate with Nitre, nor be reduced to a reguline State, without adding ſome Phlogiſton. That the reguline Nature and Contexture are deſtroyed in theſe Preparations, appears in that they are not at all acted upon by Aqua Regia, which ſo perfectly and readily diſſolves any Antimonial Regulus: And hence alſo they are utterly devoid of an emetic Quality.

But in all theſe Calcinations with Nitre, three Parts at leaſt of that Salt muſt be uſed to one of the crude Antimony, or the internal Sulphur will not be ſufficiently burnt off, and the reguline Spicula ſo far deſtroyed as to leave an inert Calx: For if two Parts only of Salt-petre are employed, it proves ſtill emetic, as is ſeen in what *Boerhaave* calls Antimonii Emeticum mitius: So alſo if the Nitre be conſiderably reduced, in the Preparation

ration of the Ceruſs of Antimony, that likewiſe will remain very draſtic. If equal Quantities of Nitre and Glaſs of Antimony are expoſed for ſome Time, in a clean Crucible, to a briſk Fire, a very beautiful Calx, or Diaphoretic Antimony, comes out, but altogether inactive: If two Thirds however, or Half only, of Nitre is uſed, the Calx is nothing ſo white (the Sulphur not being quite burnt off); and thence it remains ſtill emetic, eſpecially if only half Salt-petre is projected with the Antimony.

Upon this Foundation may be made ſeveral Sorts of Antimonial Powders, more or leſs active, as more or leſs Nitre is uſed; which, prepared with Care, and given with Judgment, may prove of conſiderable Service in Medicine, much more ſo ſurely than the common Antimonium Diaphoreticum, or Ceruſs of Antimony.

But, in all theſe Calcinations, not only the Quantity, but the Quality alſo,

alſo, of the Salt-petre ſhould be well conſidered; for ſome Nitre greatly abounds with common Salt, and hence leſs corrects, as it is called, or rather deſtroys, the Regulus.

But I greatly prefer the Infuſion of the Glaſs, Regulus, or Crocus of Antimony, in ſound generous Wine, to any other Preparation of that Mineral, as by far the moſt certain, ſafe, and effectual; and the Vinum Antimoniale made with the Glaſs, or Regulus, I think the beſt: For unleſs the Liver of Antimony is carefully prepared with a due Quantity of Nitre, and a proper Degree of Fire, it cannot be depended on, as being ſometimes ſtronger, ſometimes weaker, and ſometimes it throws up no ſeparable Scoriæ; which makes it, *Cæteris paribus*, conſiderably weaker. Beſides, the Hepar ſhould be finely powdered, and well edulcorated with repeated Ablutions (or rather Decoctions) in hot Water; otherwiſe

much of the alcalized Nitre will adhere to the hepatic Crocus, and enervate the Power of the vinous Menſtruum. This was not formerly attended to ſo much as it ought to have been; and I well remember, when the Vinum Benedictum, as then called, was ſtrangely different the one from the other. Certainly, when prepared with true Glaſs of Antimony, or pure Regulus, there is not this Uncertainty. If the martial Regulus is uſed, it may in ſome ſmall Degree alſo participate of a ferrugineous Principle. The Wine ſhould be always carefully filtered, after ſufficient Infuſion. In this Infuſion of the Glaſs or Regulus of Antimony on Wine, the reguline Subſtance is diſſolved by that ſaponaceous, ſpirituous, tartareous Menſtruum, and the reguline Part becomes moſt highly attenuated; otherwiſe it would not ſo readily paſs

with the Wine through the cloſeſt Filtre, and remain ſo long ſuſpended, and intimately incorporated with the Wine, and ſo remain for Years together. So that Antimony, ſo prepared, is in ſolutis Principiis, as it were; or rather is thus rendered a Kind of highly ſubtilized liquid Tartar Emetic, which poſſeſſes the whole Power and Virtue of Stibium, as it is potent enough to give a very ſtrong Irritation to the Stomach and Inteſtines, if taken to the Quantity of an Ounce or two; and yet, in a ſmaller Doſe of two or three Drachms, it only cauſes a Nauſea, gentle Puke, and a Stool or two, if neither a Sweat, or very high Perſpiration: But, from thirty to ſixty or eighty Drops, it generally proves merely an Alterative and Diaphoretic, paſſing through the inmoſt Receſſes, and ultimate Ramifications, of the whole vaſcular Syſtem, with little or no Diſturbance

to Nature, and yet evidently promotes all the animal Secretions and Excretions, particularly thoſe of the Skin, Inteſtines, urinary Paſſages, and ſalival Ducts, by gently irritating the whole nervous and vaſcular Compages.

As this Antimonial Wine then ſo readily mixes with the Blood and animal Humours, and paſſes off ſo freely and eaſily through all the Outlets of the Body, it may be given with Safety, and repeated with Succeſs, two, three, or even four Times in twenty-four Hours, in ſmall Doſes, and ſo continued for Days together: Whereas the ſolid Antimonial Preparations are very uncertain in their Operation, ſometimes lying a long Time in the Stomach and Bowels before they exert any ſenſible Effect; and then, at once, irritating with ſo much Violence and Obſtinacy, that the Patient is too often quite exhauſted

hauſted before the Force of the Antimonial. And this is not a little to be feared, and ſometimes actually happens, when Kermes Mineral, Sulphur Auratum, Crocus Antimonii mitior, and even Regulus Medicinalis, and other ſtibiate Powders, or Pills, are given, and too ſoon and frequently repeated, as every one muſt know, who hath freely dealt in ſuch Sort of Medicines; a Hypercatharſis ſometimes, all at once, and unexpectedly coming on, eſpecially on drinking a Glaſs of Wine, Cyder, or other vegetable Acids.

Beſides, when Antimonials are given in Subſtance, they muſt firſt undergo a Diſſolution in the Stomach, before they can paſs the Lacteals, and be mixed with the Blood, ſo as to act as Alteratives, Diaphoretics, *&c.* Now, in this liquid Preparation the reguline Part is already diſſolved, and moſt exquiſitely atte-

nuated, ſo that it paſſes into the Blood with the utmoſt Facility. It ſhould be moreover obſerved, that, in this Form, Antimony may be given in the moſt agreeable Manner, without even being perceived, or creating any more Diſtaſte than the Wine it was made on. A Thing of ſome Conſequence truly, when we have to do with ſqueamiſh Patients, particularly with Children, to whom it may be neceſſary to give repeated Doſes of the Medicine. It is certainly then much in Favour of this Preparation, that it is ſo agreeable, and may be ſo eaſily concealed, and given in any proper Liquor; and this, I ſay, to Children, as well as grown Perſons. There is many Times the ſtrongeſt Indication for puking and purging them, and yet it is extremely difficult to give them the common Medicines uſual on ſuch Occaſions; whereas the Antimonial Wine may be

be given in their common Drink with the utmoſt Eaſe and Safety. I have very frequently given it with Succeſs, from ten to thirty Drops, to Children of a Year or two old, in the Chin-cough, and aſthmatic Oppreſſions, when an Attempt to force down more nauſeous Medicines had endangered a Suffocation and Convulſions.

Should it be imagined, that this Medicine, being ſo ſafe and eaſy, can have no great Efficacy as an Alterative and Diaphoretic; I anſwer, that as it is capable, in a proper Doſe, of irritating the Stomach and Inteſtines ſo ſtrongly, it cannot be ſuppoſed, even in very ſmall Doſes, to lie inactive in the ſanguineous and lymphatic Arteries; and both ſeems, and eventually is, exceedingly well adapted to ſtimulate and ſcour the whole vaſcular Syſtem. In Confirmation of this, we find, that when

a pretty large Doſe of the Eſſence of Antimony is given, as three or four Drachms, for Inſtance, a large Sweat almoſt always ſucceeds, if it is not immediately thrown up by Vomit. By thus keeping up then, and quickening, the Action of the Veſſels on the contained Fluids, the general Circulation of the Humours is moſt effectually promoted; and indeed ſome ſuch a Stimulus is very often highly neceſſary in the ultimate Ramifications of the ſanguineous, ſerous, and lymphatic Arteries, where the Motion is naturally exceeding ſlow, and where Stagnation, and conſequent Corruption of the Serum and Lymph, are very apt to generate a putrid Colluvies. I think one of the Uſes of Salts of all Kinds, eſpecially of common Salt, is to act as a general Stimulus; and hence the moderate Uſe of it is ſo ſalutary. By thus univerſally ſtimulating therefore not only the greateſt, but alſo the ſmalleſt

Veſſels

Veſſels of the Body, this Medicine greatly tends to remove all Obſtructions formed, or forming, even in the minuteſt Canals; and hence moſt ſucceſsfully promotes the natural Secretions and Excretions; in which, duly performed, Health itſelf conſiſts.

In obſtinate Rheumatiſms then, in cold ſcorbutic Affections, in moſt cutaneous Diſeaſes, in aſthmatic, leucophlegmatic, and icteric Diſorders, in old ſtubborn Head-aches, Vertigo, Epilepſy, and Mania, Antimonials are very uſeful, and the Vinum Antimoniale in particular. In my own Practice I have had numerous Inſtances of its Succeſs in the above Caſes, and have likewiſe had the Pleaſure of finding it ſucceſsfully uſed by ſeveral eminent Practitioners.

Let me further add, before I quit the Subject, that I very frequently give

give this Antimonial Wine, or Eſſence of Antimony, as I call it, in ſome acute as well as chronic Diſorders, and particularly in ſlow Fevers, low irregular Intermittents and Remittents, in catarrhal Fevers, in a Peripneumonia Notha, and even in a true Peripneumony, after proper Evacuations, towards the Cloſe, when the Spitting is prematurely ſuppreſſed, and great Anxiety and Difficulty of Breathing come on. In like Circumſtances, it is very proper in the Small-pox alſo; and I have had the Satisfaction, through divine Goodneſs, of ſeeing it many Times very happily ſucceed in many deſperate Caſes; the Expectoration returning ſometimes with a gentle Vomiting, ſometimes a Stool or two, and ſometimes a univerſal kindly Sweat. The Kermes Mineral was formerly given in ſuch Caſes with aſtoniſhing Succeſs, and operated much in the ſame

Man-

Manner: However, I well know the Essence of Antimony is much more safe and certain; though the Powder had a surprising Reputation in *France* and *Germany*, about thirty or forty Years ago, and with Justice too, when properly timed and dosed; but the too precipitate and injudicious Use of it soon brought it into Disrepute. And this is generally the Fate of all empirical Medicines, which are cried up as good in all Cases, and at all Times; for, though they may be really good in themselves, under a proper Administration, yet the indiscriminate and imprudent Use of them too often renders them Poisons instead of Antidotes; as hath, in Truth, been the Case with some more modern Arcana.

To conclude, I do not pretend that the Observations I have here laid down are altogether new; I allow

allow that far the greater Part of them are commonly known, and as ſuch I produce them, without particular Quotations from particular Authors, or ſetting down Proceſſes at large, which may be eaſily conſulted in the common Books of Chemiſtry; knowing alſo that there are ſeveral other Ways of Working, in the great Way, much more commodious and cheap, by ſaving Saltpetre, *&c.* But, if I miſtake not, I have, in ſome Meaſure, given a new Light into the Nature of Stibium; at leaſt have made it more obvious to the younger Part of ſuch, whoſe Buſineſs it is to prepare and exhibit Antimonials, than they will readily find in any one ſingle Treatiſe. And, as ſtibiate Medicines are now ſo much in Vogue, this little Piece may not be an improper Thing to be put into the Hands of Students in Phyſic: Perhaps it may excite even ſome of

the

the more experienced to improve and aſcertain the Virtues and Doſes of Antimonials, which at preſent are not a little undetermined.

Beſides, I had alſo a further View in drawing it up, which is to recommend the Uſe of what I have called Eſſence of Antimony, or the Vinum Antimoniale (for the Aromatic in it is of no great Importance), as much the moſt ſafe and uſeful Preparation thereof. I have uſed a great Variety of Antimonial Medicines for near thirty Years; and muſt ſay, from ſufficient Experience, I greatly prefer this to any other, though I am far from condemning all the ſolid Preparations of Antimony; but I aſſert no one of them hath greater or better Effects in Medicine than this; and very few, if any, can be given with equal Safety. I think I may ſay of many of them, in the Words of *Celſus*, " His varie medici utun-

" tur,

" tur, ut magis, quid quiſque per-
" ſuaſerit ſibi, appareat, quam quid
" evidenter compererit."

But, after all, it is not this or that Medicine, or Preparation, will cure a Diſeaſe, unleſs prudently made Uſe of. A Man may as perfectly well know how to make a Hatchet, a Hammer, or a Saw, as a Chemiſt how to make ſuch or ſuch particular Medicines; and yet the firſt may be as far from being a good Carpenter, as the ſecond from being a good Phyſician: The Arcanum is how to uſe them.

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